

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 HELSIN 03084 201222Z

44

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 EB-11 COME-00 INT-08 SCEM-02 SCI-06 OMB-01

TRSE-00 FPC-01 AEC-11 DRC-01 /144 W

----- 056235

P 201155Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7010

UNCLAS HELSINKI 3084

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, FI

SUBJ: SAVING ENERGY: FINLAND JOINS THE CLUB

1. SUMMARY: ACTING UNDER AN EMERGENCY POWERS LAW PERMITTING EXTRAORDINARY MEASURES TO PROTECT THE ECONOMY IN TIMES OF CRISIS, THE GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED A SERIES OF MEASURES TO SAVE ENERGY. PENALTIES ARE PROVIDED FOR VIOLATIONS BUT THE MANDATORY MEASURES ARE RELATIVELY TAME IN CURRENT CLIMATE OF WORLD ENERGY SHORTAGE. END SUMMARY.

2. THE ANNOUNCED MEASURES INCLUDE A NATIONAL SPEED LIMIT OF 80 KM PER HOUR, A BLACKOUT OF ADVERTISING AND STORE WINDOW LIGHTING, A LOWERING OF THERMOSTATS IN HOMES AND WORKING PLACES, A REDUCTION OF STREET-LIGHTING AND A MISCELLANEOUS CLUTCH OF PROHIBITIONS ON ACTIVITIES RANGING FROM AUTO-RACING TO MELTING THE ICE ON THE STREET WITH HOT WATER. ENFORCEMENT MAY BE BY FINE OR EVEN IMPRISONMENT, BUT IT IS GENERALLY EXPECTED THAT SUCH ACTIONS WILL NOT BE NECESSARY. MOST OF THE REGULATIONS ARE EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE BAN ON ADVERTISING AND DECORATIVE LIGHTING WHICH IS POSTPONED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 HELSIN 03084 201222Z

UNTIL AFTER CHRISTMAS.

3. THE LIST OF COMPULSORY MEASURES WAS ACCOMPANIED BY RECOMMENDATIONS TO BE OBSERVED VOLUNTARILY SUCH AS FORGOING UNNECESSARY DRIVING, TURNING OFF LIGHTS WHEN POSSIBLE, ETC. BOOKLETS ARE BEING PRINTED TO EXPLAIN THE NEW RULES AND RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH WILL BE DISTRIBUTED TO ALL (1.5 BILLION) FINNISH HOMES. WHILE THE GOVERNMENT HOPES TO EFFECT A 15 PERCENT REDUCTION IN FUEL CONSUMPTION BY THESE MEASURES, WHICH IT CHARACTERIZED AS "LIGHTER THAN IN ANY OTHER WESTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRY", ITS ESTIMATE HAS BEEN CRITICIZED BY SOME AS TOO OPTIMISTIC, ESPECIALLY WITHOUT THE AID OF A RISE IN PRICES.

4. IN HIS ANNOUNCEMENT TO THE PRESS, MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY JAN-MAGNUS JANSSON EMPHASIZED THAT FINLAND WAS COMPELLED TO ADOPT THE PRESENT MEASURES BY THE RISING PRICE OF FUEL, RATHER THAN ITS SHORTAGE. MANY FINNISH EXPERTS, LOOKING BEYOND THE CURRENT "CRISIS" FEEL THAT RISING COST RATHER THAN UNAVAILABILITY OF SUPPLIES WILL BE THE REAL PROBLEM. WITH A MORE OR LESS CHRONIC BALANCE-OF-PAYMENTS DEFICIT, FINNISH ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL PLANNERS HAVE BEEN HOPING FOR A "STRUCTURAL CHANGE" IN EXPORTS TO REFLECT A HIGHER DEGREE OF PROCESSING. ARRANGING FOR THE REQUISITE IMPORTS OF CAPITAL EQUIPMENT TO HASTEN THIS SHIFT WILL REQUIRE SKILLFUL FINANCIAL FOOTWORK. UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, THE SKYROCKETING PRICE OF THE IMPORTED FUELS REQUIRED FOR "STRUCTURAL CHANGE" -- NOT TO MENTION MAINTAINING THE NORMAL LEVEL OF ECONOMIC ACTIVITY -- COMES AS A SOBERING BLOW.
KREHBIEL

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 DEC 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973HELSIN03084
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: HELSINKI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731214/aaaaajup.tel
Line Count: 94
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: kellerpr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 31 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <31-Aug-2001 by thomasv0>; APPROVED <09-Jan-2002 by kellerpr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SAVING ENERGY: FINLAND JOINS THE CLUB
TAGS: ENRG, FI
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005